Cooperating Libraries Automated Network

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Anne Parent Chief of Library Services Office of Library & Information Services RI Department of Administration Providence, RI 02903

Dear Anne,

It is with great pleasure that we write to express our appreciation of the efforts & the programs of your department that support erate programs for schools & libraries. We would like to especially thank Sheila Carlson, Network Services Librarian, who has made a significant contribution to assist librarians with the avalanche of paper work necessary to obtain these funds. For the public library consortium, CLAN, this represents a dollar amount of over \$85, 000 which is a sizeable portion of our total CLAN budget. Erate allows us to purchase more Internet bandwidth at a greater capacity. Through the efforts of Sheila & other staffers at OLIS we are able to access erate information on the LORI web site. That then provides a direct link to a valuable amount of information about erate including Excel spreadsheets that compile a variety of statistical data necessary to complete the applications. For example, a necessary requirement is each individual town's school lunch percentage of discount must be calculated annually to determine the reimbursement amount for public libraries. We not only benefit greatly from having these statistics provided but when the reviewers contact us we are able to direct them to the OLIS web site for verification. We clearly would not be so successful in obtaining these funds without this information. Librarians statewide are able to benefit from the workshops she has attended & then conducts with us. While erate is a most time consuming & labor intensive program, it is made clearer & simplified by OLIS & Sheila's efforts, which is not an easy task. We are appreciative of their efforts on behalf of all libraries in our state of Rhode Island.

Sincerely Yours,

Cynthia St. Amour, Head of Data Processing & CLAN Peter E. Bennett, Network & Systems Administrator, CLAN